realized during the plan was Rs. 4,06,687 crore. The actual realization and the shortfall were thus 83.1 per cent and 16.9 per cent respectively of the outlay projected for the Ninth Plan. The main reason for the shortfall in the outlay during the Ninth Plan period was the substantial deterioration in the Balance from Current Revenues caused due to a stagnant level of tax revenues coupled with substantial growth in non-plan revenue expenditure.

(e) and (f) The draft Tenth Plan document has been approved by the National Development Council. It outlines various measures for raising resources required for financing the outlay projected for the Tenth Plan. The steps aimed at increasing the tax revenues include-improving the coverage of service tax, reducing unnecessary exemptions, computerization of income-tax system, rationalization of customs and excise taxes and extension of Value Added Tax (VAT) at the state level and its integration with the Central VAT. The Tenth Plan document also suggests steps for controlling non-plan revenue expenditure and cost recovery through levy of user charges in order to improve the resource position of the Government.

Economic growth rate

294. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the likely growth rate of the economy in 2002-2003 which happens to be the first year of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) how does it compare with the target growth rate of 8 per cent; and

(c) what effective measures are in place to achieve the target growth rate of 8 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per the Advanced Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the growth rate of the economy (measured m terms of Gross Domestic Product at Factor Cost) is estimated to be 4.4 per cent during the year 2002-03 over the previous year.

(b) The Planning Commission does not fix annual growth targets, however, the average target growth rate for the Tenth Five Year Plan

(2002-07) is 8 per cent per annum GDP will need to grow at an average of at 8.9% per annum during the remaining 4 years of the Plan to achieve this target.

(c)The major steps delineated in the Tenth Five Year Plan Document are special emphasis on Agriculture Sector, increasing public investment and better capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sector. Major reforms in governance, decentralisation, investor-climate and inter-state trade have also been proposed.

PM's package for Kerala's agriculture sector

295. SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his stay at Kumarakam in Kerala in 2001 had announced a package fo Rs. 1000 crore for projects pertaining to the benefit of the State's agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the number of projects initiated for utilization of this fund;

(c) the amount released so far to each of the projects including the Technology Mission on Coconut; and

(d) the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Private agencies in Government Departments

296. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to authorise various Ministries/ Departments to engage private professional agencies to work out the "Impact Assessment" of big budgeted Centrally sponsored schemes in all the States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, whether it would not hinder the process of cutting